

**For:** State and County FSA and NRCS Offices

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**Establishing and Maintaining the CRP Soils Database**

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**Approved by:** Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



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## 1 Overview

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### A

#### Background

The FSA and NRCS National Offices are developing a CRP soils database. The database will be managed by FSA/NRCS State Office staff using the CRP Soils Database Management System accessed through the Intranet. The specific Intranet site to be used for this system will be identified as soon as the application is deployed. These new CRP soils records are being developed for use with new CRP Offer Software, and for suitable counties, with ArcView GIS CRP Software tools.

Notice CRP-423 was issued to support development of security accounts for State Offices to provide controlled update-access to these records. Only those State Office employees with these accounts will be able to maintain CRP soils records in this database. Notice CRP-423 also provides additional information about the planned uses of the database.

**Important:** The development of complete and accurate soils files by FSA and NRCS State Office staff within the deadlines provided in this notice will **require large workload efforts**, but is essential to support upcoming CRP signup operations.

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### B

#### Purpose

This notice provides details about:

- the new database
  - instructions for State Office maintenance of the records in the file.
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Disposal Date	Distribution
August 1, 2003	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

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## 2 Database Requirements

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### A CRP Administration and Soils Data

CRP is administered using the soils map unit symbols (MUSYM's) published by NRCS in Field Office Technical Guides for cropped soils, including soils on which hay is grown continuously. The CRP soils database contains soils-specific natural resource factors that have been developed specifically for CRP use by NRCS and soil rental rates (SRR's).

The CRP soils database provides a single unique record for each MUSYM that occurs in a county. To guarantee uniqueness, map units are further identified by soil survey area ID number (SSAID). A county that is covered by two SSAID's will have map unit records from both survey areas, and the soil map units in that county will be identified by MUSYM and SSAID. Conversely, for adjacent counties covered by the same SSAID, each county will have its own list of soil map units, and they will be identified by MUSYM and county. In this case, any map unit that exists in both counties will have 2 records, 1 for each county; and the 2 records for that map unit can have different SRR's to reflect differing market rents in each county.

In summary, regardless of whether a county and SSAID are the same, a county is covered by two SSAID's, or a survey area covers 2 counties; the result is always a single unique record in the database for each soil map unit that occurs in a county.

The 3 key variables used to distinguish individual CRP soils records in this new database are as follows:

- county
- SSAID
- MUSYM.

**Note:** These are the same key variables/rules used in System36 SRR files.

The new soils database is also designed to reflect soils records for actual county locations only. For those few split County Office locations with multiple offices for which 2 or more unique FSA State and county codes were established in 1-CM, prior SRR policy and System 36 SRR records allowed each sub-office area to establish and manage unique SRR records. With deployment of the new database, only a single set of soils records can be established for each county.

Applicable STC's shall review split county SRR records and establish a single set of SRR's for each county according to 2-CRP.

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## 2 Database Requirements (Continued)

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### B

#### Soils Database Development

Startup data for the central file has been developed through the matching of FSA SRR records from Service Center System 36 files with soils data provided by NRCS.

**Note:** To achieve maximum file matching, FSA and NRCS soils records were matched by computer processes regardless of the case for any alphabetic letters in MUSYM or SSAID, although NRCS's correct MUSYM's were always output on the startup file.

The startup file contains:

- complete soils records which, through computer matching, contain both NRCS natural resource factors and FSA SRR's
- incomplete NRCS records which contain only valid NRCS natural resource factors, and no valid SRR's which are displayed as "0"
- incomplete FSA records which contain only FSA SRR's copied from recent county System 36 files, and no valid NRCS natural resource factors which are mostly set to "n/a".

For CRP administrative purposes, the NRCS soils data (MUSYM's and natural resource factors), developed at the time the extraction routines were processed in the fall of 2002 is to be used for the next general signup. Except that, for those State Offices with subsequent modifications and sufficient staff time available within the startup period to update the applicable records, newer soil survey information may be added and existing records deleted. To best support the deployment of a planned CRP GIS tool to help suitable Service Centers make soils determinations, all "subsequent modification" updating of MUSYM's should, to the extent practical, be done in a manner that supports MUSYM consistency with NRCS's SSURGO II GIS shapefiles.

Only copies of **complete records** with both NRCS natural resource factors and FSA SRR's will be downloadable to County Offices at the end of the startup period which ends March 21, 2003.

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### 3 Database Requirements (Continued)

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#### C

#### **FSA/NRCS File Maintenance Requirements**

FSA and NRCS State Offices are assigned the cooperative responsibility for maintaining the CRP soils database for all cropped soils. Generally, NRCS State Offices have lead authority to determine which soil types are suitable for cropping and, thus, need to be listed and all the natural resource data elements recorded for each soil. FSA State Offices are responsible for maintaining the SRR element on the records.

**Note:** FSA/NRCS State Office staff are encouraged to mark up printed lists of soils records before editing records through the website.

State Office maintenance of the database will occur in the following 2 separate phases.

Phase	Description
1	One-time initial record review and adjustment of startup data before initial deployment to Service Centers.
2	On-going maintenance review and adjustment for subsequent changes in soil surveys, SRR's, etc.

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### 2 Database Requirements (Continued)

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#### D

#### FSA/NRCS State Office Action

A one-time review by FSA and NRCS State Offices include the following tasks.

Step	Action
1	<p>Review incomplete records with NRCS data to determine the correct SRR's.</p> <p>Verify/adjust natural resource elements, as needed. These records are to be made complete by manually adding SRR's.</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> For those NRCS records listed for cropped soils for which there are no current SRR's that can be matched, follow 2-CRP procedure to develop new SRR's.</p> <p>No natural resource data is required for Marginal Pastureland Rental Rate records to be complete. These rates are used under continuous signup and are identified with MUSYM's which begin with the letters "MPL..."</p>
2	<p>Review/update complete records for SRR accuracy and changes, and verify/adjust natural resource elements as needed.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Although incomplete records with FSA SRR's only are listed, these records are primarily provided for information purposes to help complete NRCS records; they should generally not be made complete by adding natural resource elements.</p>
3	Delete remnant FSA SRR records and noncropped NRCS soils records.

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## 2 Database Requirements (Continued)

### E

#### Data Elements

The data elements on the file are as follows.

Element	Comment
(T) Soil Loss Tolerance factor	Updating of existing records not allowed <u>1/</u> .
(K) factor - RUSLE	Updating of existing records not allowed <u>1/</u> . Developed using RUSLE, not RUSLE 2.
(LS) factor - RUSLE	Updating of existing records not allowed <u>1/</u> . Developed using RUSLE, not RUSLE 2.
(I) WEQ factor	Updating of existing records not allowed <u>1/</u> .
(LEACH) Index	Must be 1, 2, or 3 for all complete records.
(LLEAF) Long Leaf Pine Suitability Index	Only set to "Y" conditions for counties in the National Long-Leaf Conservation Priority Area; review/consult with State Foresters before adjusting.
(WESL) Wind Erosion Soils List Index	All WESL Indexes have been set to a "N" default on the startup file; NRCS is required to set all applicable "Y" flag conditions.
(SRR) Soil Rental Rate	See paragraph 4.

1/ Elements can be effectively changed through Delete/Add processing only.

**Note:** NRCS data source and date information is also recorded with the soils records.

### F

#### System 36 SRR System Lockout

With deployment of the central CRP soil database through the Intranet, the official location of CRP SRR files where records are stored and maintained will be transferred from the county System 36 SRR system to this new Intranet system.

For this reason, the add/modify/delete update options on the county System 36 SRR system will be disabled in an upcoming broadcast and subsequent releases to be effective a few days before the deployment of the new Intranet system. However, State and county System 36 SRR reports will not be disabled to provide Field Offices with frozen SRR records to be used to help State Offices clean up records in this new Intranet system.

With this new Intranet system, the maintenance responsibility for FSA SRR's will also be transferred from Service Center staff to State Office staff.

### 3 SRR's and the CRP Soil Database

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#### A

#### SSR Review and Record Maintenance

SRR's must be established and maintained according to 2-CRP requirements for all cropped soil types recorded in the CRP soils database. For database maintenance, STC's shall do the following.

- Ensure that the correct and most current SRR's reflected dryland cash rents are always applied to the correct soil types.
- With NRCS State Office concurrence, STC's have authority to develop SRR's for new soil types, to delete existing SRR's, and to reduce existing SRR's.
- With approval by the National CRP Program Manager, and NRCS State concurrence, STC's have authority to increase existing SRR's.

**Important:** A nationwide SRR review is **not** being conducted before the next general signup. Current SRR's shall be used for this signup for all counties, except that those minimal increases, determined essential to ensure SRR's reflect current cash market rents and consistency across county borders, may be approved. Large-scale and/or Statewide increases will **not** be approved.

To be effective for the next general signup, STC's must forward all rate increase requests, with thorough supporting documentation, to the National CRP Program Manager according to 2-CRP **before February 28, 2003**. To meet this deadline, STC's are strongly encouraged to arrange for expedited SRR policy by delegating SRR approval authority to CRP Program Specialists.

If needed, COC's are reminded to work with local FSA/NRCS rental rate review teams to develop SRR change recommendations for STC according to 2-CRP. States Offices may issue for some counties proposed SRR's to COC's for review, instead of waiting for COC recommendations to be forwarded to State Offices.

- Dual SRR's have been discontinued; refer to 2-CRP for policy and SRR corrections to be made for startup file development.
  - After NRCS records are updated with the correct SRR's, remnant FSA SRR records should be deleted from the database.
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## Notice CRP-425

### 4 Action

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#### A

#### State Office Action

FAS and NRCS State Offices must:

- begin the initial record review and adjustment of startup data **immediately after the website is published**
  - complete this review and adjustment for all cropped soils **no later than COB March, 21, 2003**. Subsequent ongoing maintenance changes shall be made as needed after the startup period.
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#### B

#### Conference Calls and Contacts

Teleconference calls with FSA and NRCS State Office staff to review this notice and the website are tentatively planned for the week of January 27, 2003. Details will be issued to State Offices as soon as available.

After teleconference calls are held, State Offices shall direct questions as follows.

IF...	THEN contact...
general questions about the soils database	Paul Harte, FSA at 816-926-6014.
technical questions about the natural resource data elements	Russ Kelsea, NRCS at 402-437-5878.

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### 5 Concurrence

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#### A

#### Concurrence

The NRCS National Office has concurred with this notice.

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